

NEW YORK
HERALD TRIBUNE

APR 24 1964

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2-Country Spy Work Disclosed

By United Press International
STOCKHOLM

Stig Wennerstrom, the retired Swedish Air Force colonel who has confessed to a 15-year spy career for the Soviet Union, says he began his career in espionage as a secret agent for the United States.

But the story revealed yesterday in a 212-page report by the special Swedish judicial commission named to look into the Wennerstrom case was far more complicated—and more interesting—than that.

The report said Wennerstrom agreed to work for U.S. intelligence in August, 1946—two years before he began spying for the Kremlin. He was approached, he said, by an American agent introduced by the U.S. air attache in Stockholm, and

was asked to work against the Soviets.

Cording to the report, and "as a result posted a package in Leningrad" which he thought contained radio equipment. The commission gave no further details of Wennerstrom's supposed espionage career under U. S. auspices.

The American Embassy in Stockholm categorically de-

nied the story, as it did shortly after reports were first publicly circulated earlier this month that Wennerstrom had spied for the U. S. and for Sweden in addition to passing Swedish and NATO defense secrets to the Soviet Union until he was arrested last June 25.

As the Embassy stated on April 11, "an Embassy spokesman declared yesterday, 'allegations that Col. Wennerstrom engaged in illegal activity for the United States intelligence agencies have been thoroughly investigated by the American authorities. All such allegations are completely without foundation.'"

Wennerstrom, now 57, was a consultant to the Swedish Foreign Ministry when he was finally arrested. The government was sharply criticized for leaving him free so long when Foreign Minister Sven Andersson admittedly knew of the suspicions about him as long ago as 1959.

The three-man judicial panel whose report was released yesterday was named almost immediately after Wennerstrom's arrest to look

into the government's handling of the case. The report originally ran to 230 pages, but 18 pages were deleted for security reasons.

Its account of Wennerstrom's own confession cast some doubt on the spy's claim that the U. S. launched his spy career. According to the report, Wennerstrom himself said the American air attache who put him in touch with U. S. intelligence had told

him his name had been found in German World War II files as "a good contact."

Wennerstrom had close contacts with the Germans as early as 1940 and 1941, when he was neutral Sweden's assistant air attache in Moscow, the report said. It quoted him as saying he found "a fascinating intelligence game" in Moscow and established contacts in the embassies of various nations.

After the war Wennerstrom was back in Moscow as air attache from 1949 to 1952—a promotion the report described yesterday as "most unfortunate, since it furthered his criminal activity to a very high degree."

The commission added that when Wennerstrom was appointed air attache in Washington, where he served from 1952 to 1957, the U. S. seemed highly pleased, "contrary to what could be expected." He went back to Stockholm as chief of the air section of Sweden's defense command.

No details of Wennerstrom's espionage activities in Moscow, Washington or Stockholm were given in the report.

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